

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Task Areas

Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

- Provides support to birth parents & legal guardians receiving FR
- Have successfully reunified with their own children
- Services intended to increase quality of relationship between families & DSS

- Focuses on advocacy, school stability, academic performance, access to supportive services
- Serves as liaison for community education resources
- Acquaints SW with education-related services

Court Writers

ACTIVITY

As a group:

- Match each description with its corresponding task area

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

⦿ This division of DSS is comprised of:

- Emergency Response
- Family Reunification / Family Maintenance
- Permanency Planning
- Service Supports





EMERGENCY RESPONSE

◉ Child Protection Hotline (CPH)

- Assesses telephone & written referrals for child abuse and/or neglect on new or existing cases
- Determines referral response utilizing SDM
- Provides consultation to public on child abuse issues & referrals, & to resources other than DSS
- Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

⦿ **Emergency Response (ER)**

- A 24-hour, 7-day a week program
- Responds in-person to crisis & non-crisis reports of abuse or neglect
 - Day ER
 - DIU
 - Swing Shift
 - Standby
- Each referral is given a disposition of substantiated, inconclusive, or unfounded



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

◉ **Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM)**

- Provides interventions to families at imminent risk of Juvenile Dependency Court involvement
- Designed to allow children to remain in the home while services are being provided
- Maintains monthly contact with family
- Provides up to 12 months of case management services to protect & strengthen families



FAMILY REUNIFICATION

○ Family Reunification (FR)

- Services provided to caregivers & children who have been removed from the home in order to safely reunify family
- Juvenile Dependency Court orders services to be provided based on case plan developed by SW & family
- Concurrent planning is required to prepare for alternative permanent placement should reunification fail
- Services provided for limited time period & can result in children returning home or termination of services



FAMILY MAINTENANCE

◉ Family Maintenance (FM)

- Services provided to families in crisis to remedy & prevent abuse or neglect while children are in the home
- Juvenile Dependency Court orders services to be provided under WIC 300
- Services are provided based on a case plan developed by SW & family
- FM is time-limited & can result in case dismissal or removal



PERMANENCY PLANNING

◉ Assessment

- Juvenile Dependency Court sets Selection & Implementation (WIC 366.26) hearing within 120 days of termination of FR services
- Assess permanent plan of adoption or legal guardianship
 - Includes assessment of parent-child relationship
- Post-Permanency Review hearings can be set by Juvenile Dependency Court until child is adopted or legal guardianship is established



PERMANENCY PLANNING

◉ **Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA)**

- Services provided to children when all efforts to achieve reunification, adoption or legal guardianship have been unsuccessful or are not appropriate
- Goal is to maintain placement so child is not moved from foster home to foster home
- Monitor children to ensure needs are being met & to develop plan for successful transition into adulthood
 - Continue to assess for more permanent plan



PERMANENCY PLANNING

- Post-Permanency Review hearings set by Juvenile Dependency Court until child “ages out”
- Extended Foster Care
 - Eligibility criteria include:
 - Completing secondary education/equivalent credential
 - Enrolling in post-secondary/vocational education institution
 - Participating in activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
 - Employed at least 80 hours per month
 - Incapable of doing any activities above due to medical condition



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Family Finding

- Reconnect children with people who have expressed care & concern in the past, & to engage known & newly found family toward permanency for child
- Focus on youth who have few or no supportive, caring connections & are approaching adulthood
- Goals are to:
 - Facilitate family connections that will carry into adulthood
 - Support development of family as placement option
 - Locate non-custodial parents whose whereabouts are unknown
 - Share with youth their family tree, traditions, medical history, & other information they should know



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Resource Family Approval (RFA)

- Respond to requests for relative or NREFM placement of children removed from parents
- Completes evaluation of relative & NREFM homes
 - Rapid
 - Initial
 - Reassessment
- Final placement decision is responsibility of assigned case managing SW



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Resource Family Support (RFS)

- Provides crisis & planned placement seeking services for children removed from caregivers or in need of new placement
- Reviews placement referral forms, & contacts SW to confirm information & obtain any needed clarification
- Reviews case information, placement history, education information, & health issues
- Searches for appropriate homes starting with lowest level of care



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Cultural Broker Program

- Designed to raise & address concerns related to disproportionality & disparities by providing culturally sensitive services to at-risk children & families
- Promote engagement & collaboration between families & DSS to bridge cultural/ethnic differences & decrease likelihood of cultural misunderstandings
- Provides brokering, advocacy, & support to families who are involved or who are at risk of involvement with CW system



SERVICE SUPPORTS

○ Parent Partner Program

- Provide support to birth parents, legal guardians, & adoptive parents that are receiving reunification services
- Have successfully reunited with their own children & have overcome the issues that involved them with CW system
- Services are intended to increase quality of relationship between DSS & the families it serves so better reunification outcomes are achieved



SERVICE SUPPORTS

○ **Public Health Nurses (PHN)**

- Assist in advocating & coordinating health care needs of children in out-of-home care
- PHN can:
 - Provide consultation & education on medical issues
 - Access & interpret medical records
 - Access & input immunization records
 - Assist with medical, dental, & vision referrals
 - Create & update child's HEP
 - Provide health education & information to parents, SW, & substitute care providers



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Independent Living Program (ILP)

- Provides youth & NMD with program services, activities, & referrals to resources needed to be successful in adulthood
- FR/PPLA develops TILP for eligible youth who are at least 14 years of age & NMD up to age 21
- Goal is to create sense of community & belonging while providing necessary skills & support so youth or NMD can attain self-sufficiency



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Court Writers

- Review case narratives & documentation, & select pertinent information to complete court reports that are presented to the Juvenile Dependency Court
- Reports include:
 - Petitions
 - Protective Custody Warrants (PCW)
 - Detention Reports
 - Arraignment Reports
 - Jurisdiction Reports
 - Disposition Reports
- Frequently consulted regarding whether cases warrant intervention



SERVICE SUPPORTS

◉ Court Officers

- Non-case carrying SW that work with the Juvenile Dependency Court Judges, attorneys, Court staff, CASA, & DSS staff
- Appear on behalf of DSS staff at all hearings
 - Present updated case information provided by case managing SW to the Juvenile Dependency Court & all counsel
 - Obtain approval for psychotropic medications & some surgical procedures for children in out-of-home care
- Guide DSS on court processes & procedures